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is, in consequence, no division of the centrosomes.

The cell wall, arising after division, is apparently built upon the walls of those meshes of the reticulum that come to lie in what corresponds to the equatorial plane. From the author's statement, however, it is not improbable that a more or less rudimentary phragmoplast really exists.

Das kleine botanische Practicum. Von EDUARD STRASBURGER. Jena, Gustav Fisher. 1897. Pp. 246, with 121 illustrations.

In the third edition of this excellent handbook, the subject-matter has been largely added to, chiefly on the subjects of microtomy, manipulation and Bacteriaceæ. The remainder of the text is essentially the same as in the second edition. It is quite superfluous to call attention to the originality and authoritative-ness of the text, and to the excellence of the illustrations. The book has been long enough before botanists to be thoroughly and favorably known. It is inexplicable that, with such an adequate text accessible, each year should see the publication of text books which serve to overcrowd an already well-filled oblivion. In all cases it may not be possible, for lack of time, to offer so thorough an elementary course as that outlined in the Practicum. In such instances, it would be practicable to omit a certain amount of detail without detracting from the integrity or thoroughness of the work. At all events, the system is one that, from the kind of training it involves, should be generally in vogue.

FREDERIC E. CLEMENTS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

Stones for Building and Decoration. By GEORGE P. MERRILL, Curator of Geology, U. S. Museum. Second Edition, revised and enlarged. New York, J. Wiley & Sons; London, Chapman & Hall. 1897. 8vo. Pp. ix + 506.

The first edition of this excellent work was based upon the handbook of the same author and his catalogue of the building stones in the United States National Museum at Washington. The treatise here presented consists of the original, with revised and rewritten matter, and well-illustrated text, brought down to date and in various ways improved. Many pages

of new matter appear in the new edition and full-page plates have been interspersed in the text. Part I. consists of a discussion of the distribution, the composition and the character of the building stones of the United States, studied from the points of view of the physicist, of the chemist and of the geologist, as well as of the engineer and the architect. Part II. is devoted to 'Rocks, Quarries and Quarry-Regions,' and presents a detailed account and discussion of the several rocks employed in the arts, their composition, their varieties and their special characteristics. This section of the work is its principal portion, covering about 300 pages. Part III. describes the methods employed in quarrying, dressing and shaping stone, stone-cutting machinery, weathering, testing, protection and preservation. Part IV. consists of appendices of tabulated and other data relating to the valuable qualities of the stones, prices and costs, a list of important stone structures with dates of erection, and a bibliography and glossary. Eighteen figures in the text and nineteen full-page plates fully and handsomely illustrate the work.

The position and experience of the author of this treatise give ample guarantee of its accuracy, and an examination of the text will afford confirmation of this conclusion. It is well planned, well executed and exceptionally complete. The publishers have given it admirable form, a plain but neat and satisfactory binding, the press work and paper are good and the illustrations excellent, as a rule. The book has a good index. It will prove helpful to the architects and engineers of the country whenever important stonework is to be erected.

R. H. T.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

January 6, 1898: Fourteenth annual meeting. The address of the retiring President, Mr. C. L. Marlatt, was upon the subject of 'Old World Entomology.' The author recounted personal experiences and impressions gained during a four months' European tour, in the course of which matters entomological—and particularly as an applied science—were espe-